

Digital Bookplates

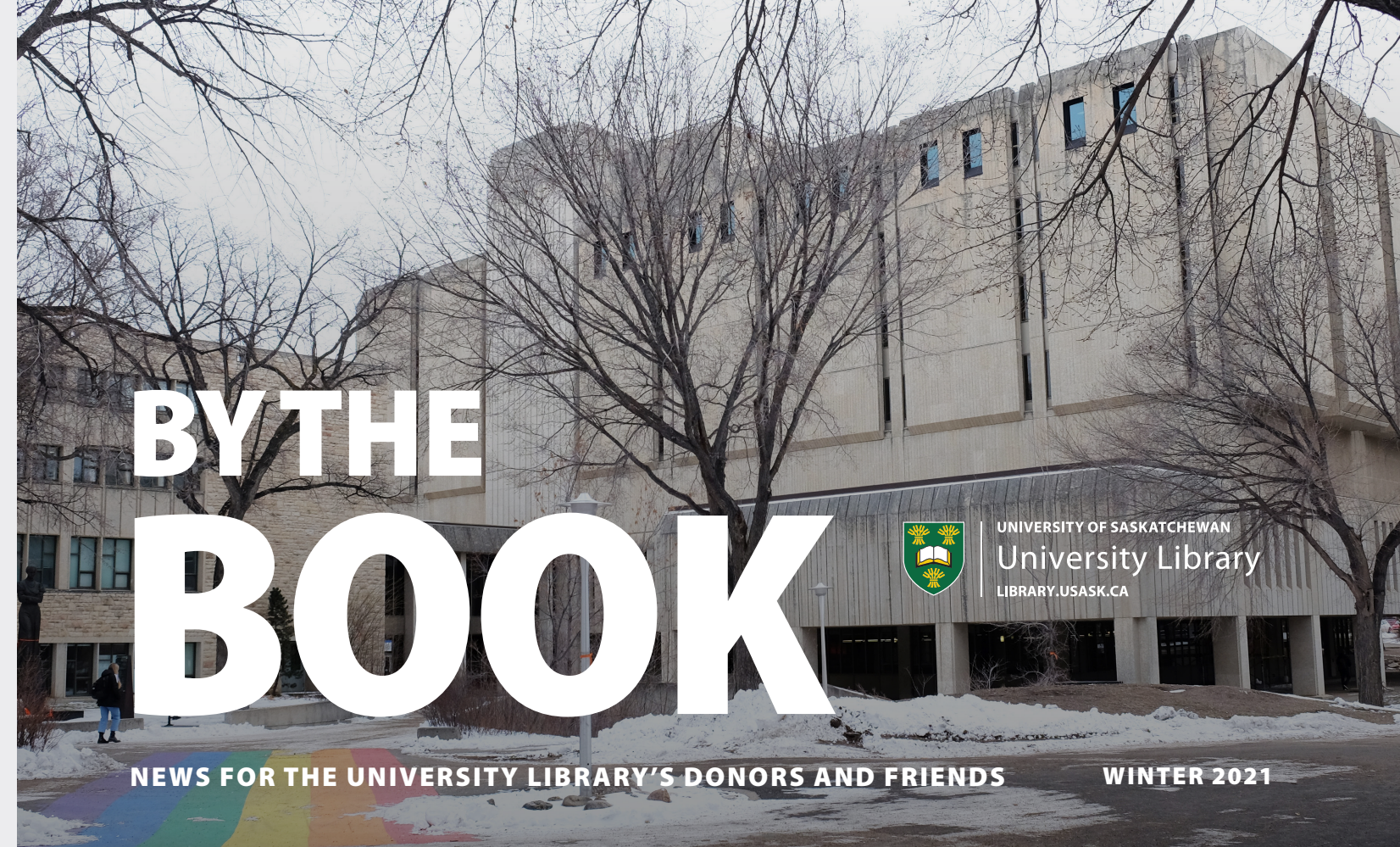
A digital bookplate is one of the ways the University Library recognizes your gift— it's not only a way for us to say thank you, but a meaningful way for you to personally recognize a friend, celebrate a family member, or remember a mentor. It can also simply recognize your own contributions to the University Library.

Each digital bookplate:

- Displays an attractive, professionally designed university image
- Contains personalized text of your choosing which can honour or remember someone important to you.
- Links to one or more titles in the University Library's online catalogue.

We know you don't donate to the library for the recognition, but we're thankful for your support.

For more information about digital bookplates, visit library.usask.ca/bookplates or call Luke Muller at (306) 966-1192.



SUPPORT THE LIBRARY THROUGH:

CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS

As a USask graduate or member of our community, you understand the dedication and sacrifice required for students to **Be What the World Needs**. Through the pandemic, the commitment and resilience of our students has been tested in unimaginable ways. That's why your donation to the Campaign for Students is so vital.

Your gift is inspiration and immediate support for students so they know there are people cheering them on to **Be What the World Needs**.

give.usask.ca/students

For more information on how you can support the University Library, contact:

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The journey home

After my 18-month sojourn to the provost's office, I am happy to have returned to my role as the dean of the University Library. It was wonderful to be able to serve our university in a different leadership capacity. I learned so much about how decisions are made at the senior executive level, became immersed in all the ways colleges and administrative units are moving forward to realize the aspirations of the university plan, and gained a deeper appreciation for the value the members of our campus community see and derive from the library's people, services, and resources.

Since I've been back, I have re-immersed myself into the full operational and strategic activity underway at the University Library. I've spent time rebuilding my knowledge and renewing personal connections both within the library and, of course, with our many alumni and friends. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the things I've missed while working remotely including our students and our wonderful library

spaces, which I'm happy to say are increasingly filled with energy and activity since our gradual return to in-person learning.

As I reflect on the past year, I'm filled with a sense of pride and admiration for all the library has accomplished. When COVID was spreading across the country, we worked to transition the library to a fully remote environment. And by the time I moved into the provost's office full time, the library, along with the rest of campus, had completely reimagined the way we delivered our services.

The last few months have seen campus activity return in phases, and I know this transition is still evolving. I certainly never expected COVID to impact our lives for this long, nor would I have expected we would still be navigating these waters. I appreciate the flexibility, the agility, the innovation, and commitment to excellence that our library employees have exhibited during these challenging times. And I am equally grateful for the ongoing support of our

library donors, who have continued to remain engaged with us as we've navigated the pandemic.

And, finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't make special mention of the extraordinary work Charlene Sorensen accomplished during her time as acting dean. I'm grateful for her commitment to our work, and for her steady leadership over the past year and a half. I knew that the library would be in good hands, and I appreciate her willingness to serve, and acknowledge her success in keeping the library moving forward in the best ways possible.

It's so good to be "home" again, and I'm looking forward to reconnecting with all our library community, especially our library donors. ♥

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Just
Dean, University Library



Skyxe partnership provides profile for USask

BY JAMES SHEWAGA

When it comes to showcasing a one-of-a-kind collection of historical aerial photography of Saskatchewan, the province's primary international airport proved to be the perfect place for the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

A creative collaboration between the University Library at USask and Skyxe is helping spotlight the photography of Howdy McPhail to travellers from near and far in the newly created airport gallery at Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport.

"This new partnership is a creative opportunity to showcase collections preserved by University Archives and Special Collections at the University Library for audiences from across the country and around the world," said Charlene Sorensen, acting dean of the University Library at the time of the exhibit launch. "It is important for us to find creative and meaningful ways to engage with the community and share our special collections with as many people as possible. From a poem written by Louis Riel shortly before his death, to the artwork of Courtney Milne, these collections are unique and deserve to be on display."



Charlene Sorensen

With the airport on board, the university has landed an opportunity to reach additional audiences of new arrivals as well as those preparing to depart, with an estimated 1.4 million people moving through the airport in typical non-pandemic years. The agreement between USask and the Saskatoon Airport Authority to display items in the new Prairie Peoples Showcase was signed on Oct. 8, 2020, and will run through to January 15, 2022, when it will come up for review and renewal.

"We are fortunate that the Saskatoon Airport Authority will be displaying various special collections through rotating displays throughout the year," said Sorensen. "This is an opportunity to showcase the range and diversity of our collections, sharing them not only with members of our local community, but also with people visiting Saskatoon from far and wide."

For Tim Hutchinson, assistant dean

responsible for University Archives and Special Collections, it is another avenue to share USask's unique array of items and collections, ranging from early Saskatoon postcards to the McPhail photography collection, to the historic Diefenbaker collection of papers and books of the late 13th Prime Minister of Canada for whom Saskatoon's airport was officially named in 1993. Skyxe pays tribute to Diefenbaker's birthdate on Sept. 18 each year.

"We are pleased to have this new opportunity to showcase some of the unique items in University Archives and Special Collections, both for visitors to Saskatoon and residents who are travelling elsewhere," said Hutchinson. "It is fitting that this partnership is starting with an exhibit featuring Howdy McPhail's aerial photographs. One of my favourite parts of flying into Saskatoon is getting an aerial view of the city and surrounding farmland. This exhibit documents an earlier era of aerial views, going much further afield."

The Howdy McPhail exhibit was made possible, in part, by a generous donation from Howdy's son, Hugh McPhail (BA'76, LLB'76). ♥



University Library Learning Commons

Envisioning a Library Learning Commons

Over the past number of years, use of the Engineering Library space, library services, and resources has changed significantly.

"Library space is increasingly used by students for projects and group assignments and for academic skills programming," says Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins, associate dean of the University Library. "Although borrowing of the print collection has dropped, use of online resources has skyrocketed. Students are accessing research, library services, and academic supports online through library chat services, through peer-to-peer learning, and through embedded librarian support."

To address these use patterns and the needs of the College of Engineering, the engineering library space has been re-envisioned as a research and learning

commons where knowledge is created and shared. Concurrently, the space has been rebranded the 'University Library Learning Commons'.

The learning commons vision started in 2016 when the majority of the engineering collection was moved out of the library to create a collaborative study space for students. Now after five years in storage, this collection is finally being relocated to the Science Library. The remainder of the physical collection in the Engineering Library has moved to the Science Library, creating a consolidated engineering collection in the Science Library that is accessible and browsable.

"The University Library Learning Commons is focused on students, with furniture and spaces that support students studying individually or in groups and for students working on group projects,"

says Sarjeant-Jenkins. "The engineering librarian is now more embedded in the academic life of the college, working with faculty and students to provide research and learning support."

The University Library Learning Commons will offer academic skills programming, providing support in areas such as math/stats, research, and study skills. It can also accommodate public events and lectures that highlight the library as a place of learning and knowledge creation.

"I am excited about this vision for the library space in the College of Engineering, which fulfills concepts from the University Library Master plan and supports the College's vision of transformative learning environments," says Sarjeant-Jenkins. ♥